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## FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

P.O. Box 2604

Washington, D.C. 20013

MHQ-6097

7 August 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Bureau Chiefs  
 Chief, Daily Reporting Division  
 Chief, Monitoring Operations Division

FROM:   
 Chief, Operations Group, FBIS

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SUBJECT: Handling of Satellite Television Material

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1. General: It is essential for everyone who handles television material monitored from satellite transmissions to understand when FBIS may file and publish such material openly. As with any other kind of intercept, this sometimes requires the making of judgments based on less than complete information. In situations that these guidelines do not cover, seek the guidance of the Monitoring Operations Division.

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2. Terrestrial Telecasts: This guidance does not affect items monitored from terrestrial television facilities broadcasting to the general public. You may continue to treat the coverage by a foreign terrestrial television station of news events in the United States as you would any other output from that station, assuming that it has intelligence value.

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3. U.S. Television: Except under unusual circumstances where such coverage serves an urgent, short-term, and legitimate intelligence interest under Executive Order 12333, such as counterintelligence or foreign intelligence, do not process satellite television programs which originate in the United States and do not process foreign television satellite feeds destined ultimately and solely to recipients in the the United States. This stipulation qualifies all of the guidelines which follow. You may file discreet FYI's and cruising reports, but not VSL's, about such transmissions, however. When there is need to file an item derived from such a cast, send it to the Chief, Wire Services Staff, with the caveat "NOT FOR PUBLICATION."

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4. Satellite Ownership and Terminal Locations: The ownership of the satellite from which a bureau intercepts television has no bearing on the handling. Also, the locations of the ground terminals immediately involved in the transmission do not in themselves govern the handling, because the intercepted transmission may be only one link in a sequence of relays.

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5. "Open" Material: Television program material intercepted from a satellite is "open" only when it meets one or more of the following criteria:

a. there is a reasonable certainty that a terrestrial television station or network in the country of program origin is broadcasting the video component of the telecast simultaneously (the inclusion of a different audio component in the satellite transmission is not a disqualification, but a relay or rebroadcast in a receiving country does not meet this requirement);

b. regardless of terrestrial parallels, it originates at a studio in an Eastern bloc country (the USSR, Poland, the GDR, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, or Albania) or in Mongolia, Afghanistan, North Korea, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia or Cuba;

c. it comes from the downlink of a direct-broadcast satellite (DBS). ☐

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6. Guidelines for "Open" Filing: There are certain indications, both explicit and implicit, singly or in combination, which help in determining whether a telecast meets the requirements of paragraph 5 a:

a. the inclusion of station or network announcements typical of a broadcast before, during, or after the transmission of program material;

b. the inclusion of commercial announcements or of periodic fades to black suitable for the insertion of commercials;

c. references to matters of interest chiefly to the inhabitants of the community in which the studio is located;

d. the regularly scheduled appearance of the programming on a satellite transmission;

e. a similarity between the observed program schedule of the satellite telecast and the program schedule for a terrestrial television station or network published in a newspaper or elsewhere. ☐

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7. "For Official Use Only" Material: All material derived from satellite video intercepts, except those specified in paragraph 5, is "for official use only" (unless the sensitivity of the material dictates the assignment of a security classification). This category specifically includes, but is not limited to, any material (such as a report from a correspondent) which seems intended for the immediate or delayed incorporation into a terrestrial television broadcast in a receiving country. ☐

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8. Filing Rules: The rules for the filing of "open," "for official use only," and classified material from satellite telecasts are similar to those for items derived from terrestrial press agency transmissions. Use such caveats as: "...U.S. GOVERNMENT CONSUMERS" in the items that are for official use only. [redacted]

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9. Sourcelines and Subslugs: Regardless of the handling, use sourcelines for satellite television intercepts similar to those you would use for material from terrestrial television. In "open" messages, do not include any indication that the material is derived from a satellite intercept. In other messages use long subslugs to specify such information as the identity of the satellite in material derived from the initial intercept of a given source but shorten them in subsequent reports:

((ATHENS SCHEDULED TELEVISION FEED TO HAVANA -- TALK BY COMMENTATOR O. ELLAS: "GREEK PEOPLE GRATEFUL FOR CUBAN SUPPORT"....))  
[redacted]

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10. Videotape and VSL Caveats: Label all videotapes "FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY" and use the standard "...U.S. GOVERNMENT CONSUMERS" caveat in all Video Selection Lists, unless the sensitivity of the material requires the imposition of a security classification.  
[redacted]

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11. Television Feeds: The term "pass-feed" is unfamiliar to many consumers. Television organizations apply it correctly or wrongly to a variety of television transmissions. Use it in your messages only when the source does. Otherwise, substitute such descriptions as: "one-time television feed" or "scheduled television feed." [redacted]

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**Distribution:**

- Orig & 2 - C/Ops
- 1 - D/FBIS
- 1 - C/AG
- 1 - C/Prod
- 1 - C/LRB
- ✧ - MHQ File
- 1 - ea Bureau Chief (all Ops bureaus/units)
- 1 - C/DRD
- 1 - Managing Editor
- 1 - C/WSS

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